

MEMORANDUM

National Amateur Aquatic Foundation. Inc.

February 3, 1965

The swimming community in the United States and in Washington, D. C. in particular has grown beyond anyone's possible dreams within the last five years. For example, it is now estimated that there are in excess of 800 swimming pools in the Washington Metropolitan area (Washington, Maryland and Virginia), and of these, 100 are quasi public pools. These quasi public pools -- the swim club pools, the country club pools, the pools used by schools and organizations such as the YMCA and the YWCA--are unable to provide adequate facilities to teach swimming to all non-swimming children in the area. Further, there is a complete absence of facilities designed for competitive swimming. Discussions with professional coaches, with public school officials, the representatives of the various swimming leagues, the D.C. Association of the Amateur Athletic Union, Boy Scouts executives, and the President's Council for Physical Fitness have demonstrated unquestionably the need for additional water facilities in the Washington Metropolitan area, not only to serve this area, but also the Nation. This need is not for pleasure swimming, but for the insatiable demand to teach swimming and to provide a quality pool for competitive swimming.

To meet this need, a number of professional and business men in the Washington Metropolitan area, together with support from the National Capital Swimming Association, representatives from Government, the public schools, the Amateur Athletic Union and the athletic community have banded together to form the National Amateur Aquatic Foundation, Inc. (NAAF); a non-membership, non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. This organization's purpose is to build a swimming facility, a National swimming shrine, which can be used to further aquatic sports on a National and local level. The plans call for a pool of Olympic standards, a first of its kind on the East Coast-- one that is 50 meters long and 25 yards wide with a separate diving tank. The pool, enclosed in an air conditioned building, will be used during the entire year. The plans include parking facilities, spectator seats, modern timing equipment, and all devices and aids which can be used by swimmers and coaches to improve swimming techniques. For example, the Foundation proposes to provide underwater ports so that coaches and instructors may watch the children swimming, and even use movie cameras to improve swimming techniques. The Foundation will provide facilities for the press -- newspapers, radio and TV -- for news coverage of National and local events.

The Foundation does not intend to compete with existing clubs and pools for recreational swimming, but will supplement them by providing facilities for competitive swimming and for teaching youngsters to swim -- from the beginner to the most advanced competitive swimmer training for the Olympic games. Diving, water polo and synchronized swimming will also be included in the program.

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The tentative plans call for locating the facility on the beltway (a new limited access high-speed highway which circles the city of Washington through Maryland and Virginia); thus, the pool will be easily accessible not only to local swimmers, but also to the great population centers in the East.

The Foundation will build a swimming pool befitting the Nation's capital -- a facility where National swimming events, olympic tryouts or even the Olympics themselves might be held without reservation.

The Foundation intends to have prominent members of the business community, professional coaches, and other individuals interested in swimming on the Board of Directors. The facilities will be built from donations, gifts or grants which will be tax deductible. Contributions will be sought from the local swimming community in the Metropolitan area and local and National organizations interested in swimming and the physical fitness of our Nation's youth.

The day-by-day operating funds will be provided by nominal charges, thus spreading the costs, without profit, of the pool operation among those who use its facilities. The Foundation intends to have a pool manager and a staff who will operate it within guidelines established by the Board.

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